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618755

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

**INFORMATION REPORT**

CD NO.

COUNTRY

**East Germany**

DATE DISTR. 20 May 1954

SUBJECT

**Events and Personalities Affecting SED and Government Policy**

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS:  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO

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REPORT NO.

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1. The most important event occurring during the period covered by this report was the three-day conference of the SED Central Committee with the first secretaries of the SED and FDJ Bezirk and Kreis directorates attending. SED Politburo members Wilhelm Pieck, Hermann Matern, Willi Stoph, Herbert Warnke, and Bruno Leuschner were absent. Surprising is the absence of Pieck, who only had greetings sent to the conference, and Warnke, who should have been present as the responsible functionary for the implementation of the New Course in East German production plants.
2. The general purpose of the conference was the formulation of the party line in preparation for the forthcoming SED Kreis-level conferences. Karl Schirdewan's speech to the conference sharply criticised the party's youth work and the work on FDJ cadres. Schirdewan's critical remarks may be taken to indicate the existence of nervousness on the part of the SED leadership in relation to the possibility of another 17 June.
3. One of the main discussion topics at the conference was presented by Ulbricht. He emphasized that the substance of the New Course is primarily "great political ideas" and that the overemphasis heretofore placed on material goals is a dilution of the main idea behind the New Course. Ulbricht also presented the SED viewpoint regarding German unification. He stated that unification could not be expected to drop from the heavens but must be attained through the alteration of power factors in favor of the peaceful democratic forces in Germany. He did, however, point out that the Four-Power meeting and the U.S.-U.S.S.R. atom discussions are lessening world tension. Ulbricht's formulation was not merely propaganda but an indication, along with the treatment of the Berlin Conference in the East German press, that the SED holds little hope for a Four-Power agreement. Ulbricht's remarks, in addition to those delineating the New Course, indicate the possibility of a large-scale purge at Bezirk and Kreis level.

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4. A Pravda editorial of early January picked up by the East German press emphasized the historic role of East Germany as the basic core of the future anti-fascist democratic Germany.
5. Both the SED agitation line and the first important pronouncement of the Committee for German Unity emphasize the struggle for German unity according to the following sequence: setting up a provisional German government which will set the conditions for democratic elections; prerequisites are the demilitarisation of West Germany and the dethroning of West German economic and financial magnates.
6. The SED agitation line also emphasizes the need for unity of action on the grass-roots level. The agitation line for grass-roots consumption completely ignores England. France, however, is presented as being acutely threatened by the Eisenhower-Adenauer militant alliance. The SED agitation line emphasizes Bonn's aggressive intentions more than Moscow's love of peace. The main target is, as heretofore, EDC. There is also an increased emphasis on U.S.-West German intelligence activities. This propaganda centering about EDC and intelligence activities is directed at two targets, France and the German bourgeoisie. 25X1

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8. No education minister has as yet been appointed. Former minister Else Zaisser is presently translating Russian teaching manuals on a contract basis for the Volk und Wissen publishing house.
9. According to the decree which sets up the Ministry for Culture, this ministry is to include the former State Commission for Art Matters, the State Film Committee, and the Adult Education Department. The area of competence established by this decree indicates that the Literature Office is also included. This is indicated by the fact that the former director of the Literature Office, Fritz Apelt, is now a state secretary in the Ministry of Culture. The former head of the State Film Committee, Sep. Schwab, was recently appointed ambassador to Hungary to replace Stefan Heymann, who has been appointed ambassador to Poland. It is also alleged that Anton Ackermann is being considered as head of the Main Department for Film in the Ministry for Culture.
10. Further information on the structure of the Committee for German Unity is lacking. It is possible that some type of economic working committee for the nationalization of West German heavy industry is to be added to the committee. This is indicated by the presence of Albert Norden as second in command of the Committee for German Unity. He has been highly interested in this field and in the past year has cooperated closely with the East German nationalization specialist Georges Bachler of the Institut fuer Zeitgeschichte.
11. Neues Deutschland of 16 January confirms the appointment of the former deputy director of the SED Central Control Commission, Ernst Lange, as head of the Central Committee department for trade, supply, and light industry. This department is primarily responsible for the implementation of the New Course.
12. The signature of Franz Ulbrieg, head of the finance section of the Central Committee, has recently appeared on directives of the praesidium of the Investbank. This may indicate that Ulbrieg is no longer on the Central Committee.
13. Gerhard Cocknick has been appointed secretary in the SED Basirk directorate Cottbus. His specialty is unknown.

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1.  **Comment:** The absence of both Warnke and Leuschner accentuates Ulbricht's clarification of the New Course as "great political ideas" and his de-emphasis of material (production) goals and achievements. 25X1
2.  **Comment:** The East German press version of Nuschke's reply to the journalist conflicts with the version appearing in the West German press. The point of conflict is whether Nuschke stated that the spy data did or did not have a bearing on the Four-Power conference site negotiations. 25X1

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